

Minutes of the School Food Subcommittee Meeting
December 5, 2005

Members present: Caroline Grannan; Jaclyn Wong; Ed Wilkins; Ericka Lovrin; Libby Albert; Meyla Ruwin; Leah Rimkus; Holley Wysong; Katie Kaplow; Alfredo Sabillon; Laura Brainin-Rodriguez; Dana Woldow
Guests: Jill Wynns, Sarah Lipson

Dana Woldow called the meeting to order at 4:05pm

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Ed presented the results of the K-5 lunch bid. Preferred Meal Systems and others were asked for a 'menu style' bid, which includes not just the entrees, but all components of the 3 meals per day served by SNS (breakfast, lunch, snack), with the exception of the milk, which is a separate bid. The goal is to reduce the size of the other major bid, called the 'food distribution' bid, which has in the past gone to Sysco. Because the Sysco 'food distribution' order had in prior years been so large, there was virtually no competition for the bid, since no other company was able to handle that large an order. This allowed Sysco to raise their prices at will, with no fear of ever losing business from SFUSD to a cheaper competitor. Now, with a larger share of the total SNS order going to Preferred through the 'menu style' bid, the 'food distribution' bid includes only food for a la carte operations at MS/HS and some supplemental products for the cooking kitchens (also MS/HS only.) This bid will now be of a more manageable size, one which could be handled by several different companies, which should lead to competition for that bid, and hence lower prices. Savings are expected to be in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

Included in the 'menu style' bid from Preferred are other services which currently SNS must handle in house, such as printing of monthly menus, nutritional analysis, marketing, and even employee training. SNS used to have a management staff of a dozen people to handle this kind of administrative work, but in recent years that staff has shrunk to 3. As a result, marketing has become the kind of task taken on by the Student Nutrition Committee, working as volunteers. The Preferred bid will allow SNS to once again provide this and other administrative functions for the meal program.

The meal applications return is running slightly ahead of last year. Last year's total free/reduced percentage was 54.18% on January 31st; this year, the percentage is slightly above that on December 5, with applications still coming in. Figures will not be finalized until January 31st for the current year.

Meyla presented an initial review of the required Wellness Policy, which will include the nutrition policy as well as other guidelines which will have to be developed. A separate subcommittee will be formed to handle this.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.
Next meeting February 6th